

**Division of Children and Family Services  
Advisory Board Meeting  
April 16, 2009 - 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon  
Meeting Minutes**

The Division of Children and Family Services Advisory Board Meeting was held on April 16, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon in Conference Room #5368 in Donaghey Plaza South.

The following members were in attendance:

Connie Hickman Tanner, Gary Ewart, Dean Burbank, Dr. Jerry Jones, Rose Bates, Dr. Debra Hurd, June Simpson, Misty Bowen Eubanks, Consevella James, Renia Robinette, Jennifer Ferguson, Carla Doyes, Howard Turney, Sherri Jo McLemore

The following members of DCFS Executive Staff were in attendance:

Janie Huddleston, Cecile Blucker, Cherylon Reid, Greg Crawford, Lisa Ferrell, Anne Wells, Chris Price

Handouts Distributed:

Agenda  
Meeting Minutes (1/15/09)  
Disclosure on Fatality and Near Fatality Cases  
DHS 2009 Legislation  
2009 Legislative Session  
2009 Legislative Update  
Division of Children and Family Services Budget Report  
Arkansas Child Welfare Renewal: An Agenda for Change (Arkansas PIP core Strategies)  
Applicable CFSR Outcomes or Systemic Factors: Case Review System, Quality Assurance, Training, Service Array, and Foster/Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment and Retention  
DCFS – Belief Based Performance Management (BBPM) Goals  
Executive Directive – Administrative Case Consultation for Children under the Age of 10 Years Prior to Referral to Inpatient Mental Health Facilities for Acute or Comprehensive Residential Treatment  
Arkansas Practice Model – A Framework for First Steps and Next Steps  
Child Abuse Awareness Day Handout

## Minutes:

Cecile Blucker opened meeting with a welcome and introduced Cherylon Reid, Assistant Director and introductions of attendees.

DCFS is working the Division of Volunteerism to help DCFS with clerical help, sit with children placed into foster care, help children waiting to be placed in foster care with their homework, transport children in foster care for visits, etc. Earsie Hervey is working with DOV with assistance. The C.A.L.L. is also helping DCFS with assistance.

DCFS filled Grades 23 & 25 - Cherylon will supervise. DCFS has 113 positions to be filled – July 1<sup>st</sup> will fill 9 positions a month. 1<sup>st</sup> 9 months over the year getting position. Caseworkers to get medical records with children in foster care change PCP.

Child Care Licensing is doing a great job. Licensing group is working on reviews. Income level concerns. Lisa Ferrell receives/go over reviews and then they are forwarded to Cecile and Cherylon.

The Feds asked us to remove “ongoing”. Dallas FEDS are very pleased with the PIP. Dallas is working to get on Washington’s level. To date we have not received a final report. They are asking that additional information regarding Quality Assurance is mentioned.

Misty Eubanks filled in for Lisa McGee – Legislation Update – DCFS was successful in having all proposed bills in the legislative packet enacted into law. Particular pieces of legislation of interest are:

- Act 391 – Transitional plan aging out of foster care.
- Act 674 – Public Disclosure of non-identifying information on deaths and maltreatment of children in foster care.
- Act 675 – Child Maltreatment Investigation – to allow public disclosure of information on fatalities.
- Act 700 – Consent to make sure when a child in custody, who can consent to medical treatment for DHS foster children.
- Act 749 – Creating a new Child Maltreatment Act.
- Act 818 – Providing funding \$90,000.00 for CFS pre-employee screenings.
- Act 956 – Amending the Juvenile Code and various statutes pertaining to juveniles.
- Act 1173 – Mandating central registry checks on all new teacher and non-classified employees.
- Act 1311 – requiring notice to adult grandparents and adult relatives within thirty days of a child’s entry into foster care.
- Act 1366 – Allowing the court to enter protective orders on Child Advocacy Center records.
- Act 1399 – To gather data to study adoptions in Arkansas.

Budget Report – Budget is going along well. DCFS will be participating in a reallocation of resources to realign appropriation to meeting the operating needs for Fiscal 2009.

DCFS and Division of Education received additional funding for the new biennial budget. The Governor recommended \$8,370,000.00 in new general revenue for fiscal 2011 for the division. Monies recommended and will be utilized in the following ways:

- \$5,141,000.00 to support the salaries & 113 positions hired in Fiscal 2010 along with additional 50 positions for Fiscal 2011.
- \$1,282,000.00 for a total of four phases in sites to showcase the model child welfare system.
- \$55,000.00 for 2% Cost of Living Adjustment for State Police Crimes Against Children Division.
- \$558,000.00 increase foster care board rates 3.6%.
- \$584,000.00 for adoption subsidies due to increase in children adopted and for increase in subsidy amounts.
- \$750,000.00 to support increased demand for contract placement services.

DCFS is allocated a share of stimulus monies and will utilize it for the following:

- Agency's help to catch on clerical work in the field.
- Scanning of closed adoption files and other files currently located in the field.
- Purchase of additional state cars for the field.
- Provide worker training.
- Purchase tablets and air cards for the field.

Adoption Numbers are looking good. Baseline SFY 2009: 396 adoptions; Projected SFY 2009: 577 adoptions. Very young children is been placed with older foster parents.

- 45 years old – 513 children placed
- 55 years old – 352 children placed.
- 293 TPR
- 179 Goal of Adoption
- 1,546 Secondary Goal of Adoption

Executive Directive (ED) – Children 10 & under going into facilities. Executive Directive establishes that the County Supervisor or designee must consult with the DCFS Administrator on call prior to referring any child under the age of ten to an acute or comprehensive residential treatment program. This approval must be given regardless of the funding source utilized for payment of the services. Anne Wells is pulling information together regarding placement. ED will be effective May 15.

Child Abuse Awareness Day activities will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at the State Capitol at 1:30 p.m. as part of Child Abuse Prevention Month across the State. DCFS will fly the Children Memorial Flag to support us protecting children. Wear blue ribbon on April 22, 2009.

Foster Care Month is in May

Next meeting

Set for July 16, 2009 - 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Conference Room A